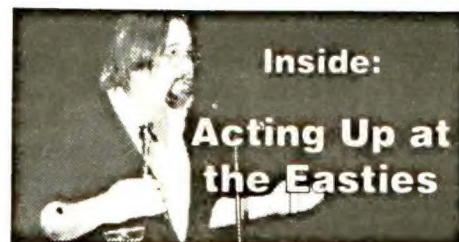


THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW

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Vol. 51, No. 59

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Alpine publishers acquire Forum newspapers, form combined news company

Jay and Teresa Harn, owners of the award-winning weekly newspaper, the *Alpine Sun*, have purchased the *Lemon Grove Review*, *Spring Valley Bulletin*, *El Cajon Eagle*, *Lakeside Leader*, *Santee Star* and *La Mesa Forum* from Forum Publications, Inc.

The Harns have launched a new company, East County Community Newspapers, Inc. (ECCN).

"San Diego's entire East County, from La Mesa to Jacumba, will now be served by this new newspaper group, creating an outstanding advertising buy for local and national merchants and seven individual quality sources for local news, features, sports and information," said Jay Harn.

The Harns have owned the *Alpine Sun* for more than six years. During this time, it has significantly increased in size and stature and has been honored as one of the best community newspapers in the state.

Three times in the last six years the *Sun* has been honored with first-place awards for excellence by the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Harn holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge and has worked in community newspaper journalism for more than 18 years.

He is also an adjunct journalism instructor at Christian Heritage College. The Harns live in Alpine and have a 5-year-old daughter, Juliana.

Harn will serve as publisher and editor of the new newspaper group. Steven Saint, former owner and editor of Forum Publications, will continue with the company as managing editor of the *Lemon Grove Review*, *Spring Valley Bulletin*, *El Cajon Eagle*, *Lakeside Leader*, *Santee Star* and *La Mesa Forum*.

Long-time *Alpine Sun* writer and city editor Billie Jo Shepherd has been promoted to managing editor of the *Alpine Sun* and *Back Country Shopper*. *Alpine Sun* writer Celeste Merigan has been promoted to the new position of group news/layout editor.

Kathy Seymour, formerly with

the *Shamrock News* in Shamrock, Texas, has joined the company as senior sales account executive and will head up display advertising sales in the new venture. Longtime San Diego-area newspaperman Dan Clark will also continue as an advertising representative for East County Community Newspapers.

Kathy Zanot, director of graphics and production for the *Alpine Sun*, will now be in charge of advertising design for all seven newspapers. All *Alpine Sun* employees will continue on in their present or expanded capacities in the new company.

One of the first changes that readers will see is an increase in page count and local news. *Alpine Sun* Entertainment Editor Diana Saenger will head up entertainment and business news for all seven newspapers.

Local sports news will also be a priority and the company is currently interviewing candidates for the position of sports editor.

All newspapers will have a formal opinion page and carry local letters and individual community columns. Local law enforcement, government and border news will also be substantially increased.

All East County Community Newspapers, Inc. writers and staff also live locally.

"We believe in publishing news that our readers can actually use," Harn said. "Too often newspapers try to be everything and carry news from Timbuktu to Maine. Our readers want to know what is happening in their own neighborhoods. So our newspapers are very local — that is our market and our guarantee."

Combined weekly circulation of all seven ECCN newspapers is more than 22,000. They are all adjudicated to publish legal advertising and public notices.

A new Santee office will officially open on April 1 at 8781-C Cuyamaca St. That office's telephone number is 448-8989.

The newspaper group's corporate offices and those of the *Alpine Sun* will continue to be in Alpine at 2144 Alpine Blvd. That telephone number is 445-3288.

Summerstock students to fight fire with Broadway-style benefit show

by Jason Williams

The East County Youth Summerstock Theatre is holding a fundraiser to replace property damaged in a devastating fire last summer at Granite Hills High School.

Lost in the blaze were more than 25 years' worth of stage sets, props, costumes, tools and new lumber which had just been delivered to build new sets.

The young actors of Summerstock are hoping to raise money to help replace these items with two performances entitled, "A Night of Broadway," which will include famous numbers and stories from Broadway.

Granite Hills High School drama director Barry Bosworth said the Youth Summerstock program is not affiliated with the campus of the Grossmont Union High School District, but is composed of students from all over — coming from as far away as Iowa.

The only restriction is that students must be between the ages of 13-18.

The fundraiser is primarily student and parent run with some direction from Bosworth. It is being produced by School of Performing Arts student Aaron Mellon.

"A Night of Broadway" is a performance mixing numbers from a variety of contemporary musicals, including "City of Angels" and Broadway's "Beauty and the Beast."

The intent of the fund raising is two-fold: to establish a nest egg of sorts from which to draw funds for future shows, as well as to raise money to assist in the rebuilding since the fire.

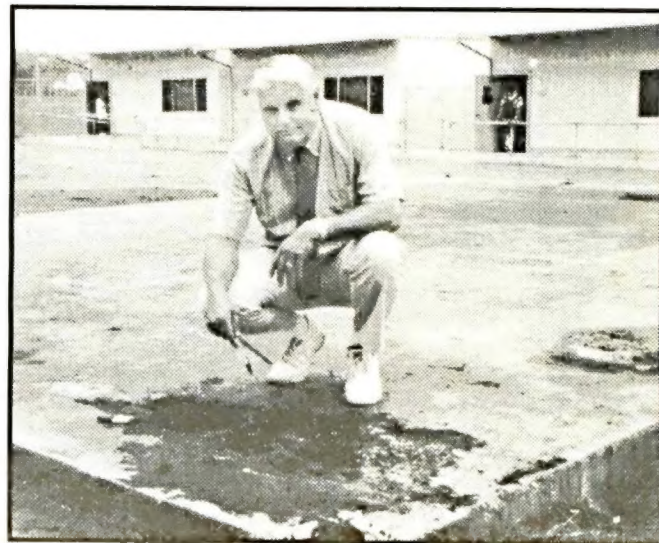
It happened on Aug. 5, 1998, said Bosworth. The cast was inside the theater, four hours away from opening night of the musical, "Anything Goes."

Someone ran in yelling "fire!"

The cast ran outside to find a fire in the outside storage already about five feet high. It spread very fast to the flats and other wooden items.

"The fire was coming in through the metal roof, starting to fall down in flaming bits all around us," Bosworth said. "A fireman was there fighting the fire with smoke in his face and all that, and he turned around and said, 'Remember me? I was a student of yours.'"

They were able to save the borrowed costumes, a majority of the larger tools, such as table



Summerstock director Barry Bosworth kneels where a fire destroyed his scene shop.
Photo by Jason Williams

saws and a compressor, and the concrete slab which was the foundation of the shed went untouched.

The actual damage does not compare to what could have happened. The theater is connected to the chemistry lab, which is connected to the library.

Bosworth said theaters are very vulnerable. They work with thin material covered in cloth and paint. It has to be built that way in order to be workable on stage.

The Granite Hills fire was caused by a child playing with matches.

"It has all been taken care of in a legal sense — all resolved,"

Bosworth said. "It's forgotten and we go on."

The school district has been instrumental in the rebuilding process, reconstructing the burnt shed and funding the replacement of the lost tools.

Alumni and current students have risen to the occasion as well, generating a huge response to the theater's need.

With "A Night of Broadway" the intent is to raise \$3,000 — the cost of one show.

The performances are open to the public and will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

For ticket information call 401-4100 ext. 366.

Probation department seeks volunteers to help juveniles

The County Probation Department is seeking volunteers to deter juveniles from further criminal activity and to help adult probationers get back on the right track.

The Reserve Deputy Probation Officer program uses volunteers in a variety of non-threatening, but challenging tasks to help the department work towards a safer community for the future.

Reserve officers have proved invaluable in assisting sworn probation officers. They carry a badge, go through an extensive background check and work with probationers and their families. However, they do not make arrests or become involved in high-risk field work.

Reservists may be placed countywide and they may supervise probationers at a day center

or help with literacy or substance abuse intervention in correctional institutions. Other assignments could include accompanying probation officers on home visits, checking on a juvenile's school attendance, teaching job-search or home-management skills or assisting in gathering information.

To qualify, a person must be at least 21 years old, have no felony convictions, be a U.S. citizen with a valid California driver license and successfully pass a background check, as well as medical and psychological exams.

The department asks reservists to make at least a one-year commitment for 20 hours per month of service. The next training will begin April 20. For details, call Ardy Shaw at 694-4345.

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Eastie strikes again

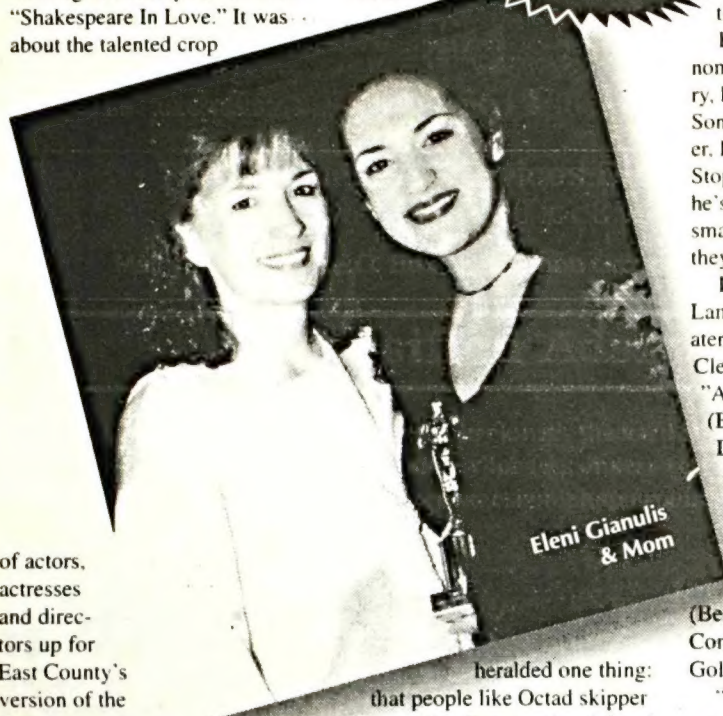
by Greg Eichelberger

As a thin red line of people entered the portals of La Mesa's grand Lamplighters Theater last Saturday evening for the second annual Eastie Awards, the murmuring wasn't about "Elizabeth," "Saving Private Ryan," or even "Shakespeare In Love." It was about the talented crop

pleted by local critics and reviewers) narrowed the list to 54 performers, who were then presented to the readers for consideration. A month of voting took place with the results being revealed last Saturday night.

The results, as mixed as they were,

CCT



Eleni Gianulis & Mom

of actors, actresses and directors up for East County's version of the Oscars.

And when it was over, many gave a relieved sigh and exclaimed, "Life is beautiful, after all." Why even Channel 10 was on hand, briefly, to catch the only event of its kind in this Pleasantville area.

This was no dog and Truman show, it was a quest for Camelot. Taking a cue from the Academy, the Forum Publications staff conceived the idea last year to honor specifically those who labored in East County productions.

In 1998, the ceremonies were held at the Octad-One Playhouse and went over so well a sequel was guaranteed. And unlike "Carrie 2," this one was both timely and welcome.

The nominating process (com-

heralded one thing: that people like Octad skipper Wayne Alan Erreca, who claimed statuettes for Best Director, Best Actor in a Drama ("Children Of The Wind") and Best Show ("The Miracle Worker"). The latter play also earned 15-year-old Dawn Newbegin the Best Supporting Actress in a Drama award for her stunning portrayal of Helen Keller.

The Lakeside troupe also picked up awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy (Charlie Dwyer) and Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy (Kelly Bush), both appearing in "The Odd Couple." Quite a reversal from last year when they claimed only two honors.

"All politics and disagreements with procedure aside, I feel really good about the Easties

tonight," gushed a humble Erreca. "I'm very proud of everyone associated with 'The Miracle Worker,' including Stephen Bair (nominated as Best Supporting Actor for Captain Keller), and, of course, my two leading ladies, Jill Virginia

Costanzo (nominated as Best Actress for Annie Sullivan) and Dawn. Everyone did a fantastic job and deserves these awards."

Erreca also praised his fellow nominees in the acting category, Fred Bailey (for "All My Sons") and fellow Octad player, Ray Lybarger (for "Bus Stop"), saying even though he's glad he won, he felt a small pang of regret that they didn't.

Last year's darling, Lamplighters Community Theater, earned four Easties: Darlene Cleary (Best Actress in a Drama - "All My Sons"), Danny Kolker (Best Supporting Actor in a Drama for "All My Sons"), Sue Ellen Gerrells (Best Actress in a Comedy - "Solid Gold Cadillac") and Andy Boutelle

(Best Actor in a Comedy - "Solid Gold Cadillac").

"These awards are great in that they actually honor theater people from our area," said Boutelle, who won in the same category last year, during his acceptance speech. "It's time that the talented and hard-working performers of East County had a chance to shine, as well."

A few minutes later, when Erreca's name was announced as Best Director, he echoed those sentiments in an amusing dig at other San Diego publications.

"The Union-Tribune and other papers don't think anyone can memorize lines east of I-5," he

Octad



Wayne Alan Erreca

(Eleni Gianulis - "Man Of La Mancha"), Best Supporting Actor (Bryant Callahan - "Man Of La Mancha") and Best Sup-

porting Actress (Elayn Thorny - "Cinderella").

Only the nascent Hilarious Interactive Theater

team came up empty.

The other downside to the evening was the amount of no-shows. Seven of the 12 baby, blind-folded Oscars remained unclaimed and,

like last year, will have to be presented to each recipient on an individual basis in the upcoming theater season.

All in all, though, with each major company getting about the same number of prizes, the democracy could not have been fairer, and the night, as a whole, could not have been more festive.

Lamplighters



Andy Boutelle

Sue Ellen Gerrells

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Connolly: Prison life gives new perspectives on freedom

by Tom Connolly

Prison was an odyssey filled with the sound of buzzers, bells, metal doors clanging open and cell doors slamming shut; sleepless nights filled with the tearful moans of lonely men, desperate cries of helpless boys and the psychotic screams of mentally ill.

But the real hell of doing time is the condition I call "Total Affection Deprivation." Doing time is completely devoid of human affection, and it is brutal!

While doing my 13 months, I was determined to transcend my plight and find some meaning in my suffering. I read about Victor Frankl's years in a Nazi concentration camp.

In *Man's Search for Meaning*, I read that everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the ability to choose one's attitude. Regardless of the circumstances, choosing how to respond is the last human freedom.

I thought about my days in grammar school, when the Sisters

of St. Joseph taught that "love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire."

I recalled that Gandhi's search for the essence of all religions, declaring that man's ultimate purpose is love and service.

It seemed that my happiest days as a lawyer were those when I did most of my work for free, serving the legal interests of the poor.

Whether it was in California Men's Colony near San Luis Obispo or Victor Frankl's concen-

tration camp, I saw that men have the choice to remain brave, dignified and unselfish or become no more than animals in the bitter fight for self preservation.

I decided I was going to say "yes" to life even though I was confined to live it in the state penitentiary. I was determined to demonstrate love and affection to my fellow prison inmates, but would it work at a correctional institution, where kindness is mistaken for lameness or weakness?

I tried to treat the Sermon on

the Mount as a practical guide for life on a prison yard. Instead of a pious ideal, I tried to incorporate the words of Jesus into my every breathing moment.

I tried to recognize my common humanity and increase my bonds of affection with every person I encountered, from inmates and guards to prison staff and outside visitors.

For instance, I met one young man outside the prison church service. We chatted briefly and I asked his name. This was out of the ordinary, because inmates usually just refer to each other as "Wood" (for white guys) or "Homes" (homeboys of various races).

It was strange, but he told me his name was Carlos.

Not long after, I saw Carlos jogging on the track one morning. I called out, "Hey, Carlos!"

To my surprise he circled back and confronted me.

"How did you know my name, Wood?" he sneered, suspicious. I answered that we had met at church and he, himself, had told me.

That seemed to satisfy him. The next time I saw him out on the jogging track, I called out. This time he waved back. "Hey, Tom!"

I persisted in showing concern, respect and love for those around me, first in a very slow, careful fashion, and later in a very open and public fashion.

Suddenly, those around me were calling each other by their first names. Even the toughest, most callous convicts followed my lead.

Gandhi was right! The Sisters of St. Joseph were right! It was contagious. All it took was the example of one person and it was now OK to serve the interests of others in a state penitentiary. It was now OK to be a loving, kind person, even on a prison yard.

Much to my surprise, I began to feel more freedom in prison than I had experienced at the height of my political career in the outside world. I will never be the same!

Tom Connolly, who represented most of East County in the state Assembly in 1993-94, was convicted of soliciting prostitution with a minor. His case is now on appeal. He maintains he is innocent.

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16,000 papers all over the place



M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

A young mother came into our Sheriff's station looking for a deputy to check the installation of her infant car seats. Fortunately, I was able to witness this extraordinary situation - a sworn law enforcement officer properly installing a car seat and showing the mother how to do it in the future. I was not aware of how easy it is to miss a small detail that might endanger the life of a child. This deputy, who was specially trained in child seat installation, knew all the details and was able to clearly explain things to this mother. This is an example of the increased level of service we are getting under our current contract with the Sheriff's Department.

A recent FBI survey showed that crime is decreasing countywide with the largest decrease in Lemon Grove. The improving economy can only partially explain this drop in crime. The balance of the explanation comes from more efficient and creative use of our deputies. Captain Yolanda Collins, who serves as our chief of police, has been willing to keep the same deputies in Lemon Grove as long as they want to stay. This leads to officers who know the community and its citizens. She is also willing to institute some interesting programs.

The deputy certified in child seat use is just one example. Our bicycle patrol is another. The bike patrol logged 2,400 hours last year with regular deputies and 500 hours with reserve deputies. Their presence and visibility contributed to a significant drop in crime in our business areas. A survey completed by 51 percent of the businesses who are located where the bikes patrol showed that better communication between the deputies and the business community is occurring. This will continue to help keep crime down.

These deputies also swing by Lemon Grove Middle School as it gets out and visit with the students at Firefighters Park. This is a very positive step toward improving communication between our police and citizens.

The city of Lemon Grove has just added a motorcycle traffic deputy to its force. This unit will continue the work in keeping our streets safe and can also serve as back-up to our patrol deputies when necessary.

Last year we experienced a 4 percent decrease in accidents which is probably a result of a 6 percent increase in drunk driving arrests and an 8 percent increase in traffic citations. A recent seat belt check conducted in conjunction with La Mesa police netted 45 various tickets, including seat belt and child-seat violations.

Captain Collins believes that education will go a long way towards reducing our need for traffic enforcement. She has initiated a training program for our youth. Not only can they attend the annual Bike Fair, but they can learn how to safely ride their bicycles in traffic. You may have seen them riding around Lemon Grove on Saturdays with their deputy instructors who are also on bikes.

If our children have positive interactions with the police, if our businesses have better communication with them and if our community as a whole views our deputies as being open and accessible, we are bound to have a safer city. Thank you, Captain Collins, your staff and our deputies.

Upcoming Events

Lutheran Church to hold Holy Week services

With Holy Week services for the Lemon Grove Lutheran Church will commence with services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday, continue at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on April 1, with communion. Good Friday services will be at noon and 2 p.m. at Saint Philips Episcopal Church, 2660 Hardy Drive, Lemon Grove.

The 7 p.m. Service of Darkness will be at the Lutheran Church, 2055 Skyline Drive, Lemon Grove, as will the Easter Sunday festival at 9 and 10:30 a.m. on April 4. For further information, call the church at 465-7301.

Grossmont hospital senior programs available

Sharp Women's Health Symposium: The 10th Annual Sharp Women's Health Symposium will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday at the San Diego Convention Center.

Deborah Norville, two-time Emmy winner, popular anchor and journalist, will share her personal story and topic of her recent book, "Back on Track." Additional keynote speakers, plus 21 additional health and wellness sessions will be offered Ask-the-Doctor, health screenings and exhibits will be available. Cost is \$49.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church
invites you to attend our
Good Friday Evening Service

featuring
John Rutter's
REQUIEM

the combined choirs with orchestra under the
direction of Ron Gillis
Rev. Jim Seaton, officiating.

7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 1, 1999

La Mesa First United Methodist Church
4690 Palm Avenue, La Mesa, CA
(Corner of Palm & Lemon Avenues)

No offering will be requested

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WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

	High	Low
March	15	59 43
March	16	58 42
March	17	62 43
March	18	68 43
March	19	69 44
March	20	63 49
March	21	67 42
Precipitation		
March	15	0.13"
March	16	0.08"
March	20	0.02"

The Lemon Grove Review

Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA
91946 • (619) 469-0101

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Steven Saint, Publisher

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Cheryl Cohen, Trudy Thomas
Sports Editor: Mary Rosen
Contributing writers: Cheryl Cohen,
Michael Krawczak, Joe Naiman,
Paul Treske, Betty Jo Tucker,
Jason Williams

Submissions

Letters, editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100
Incorporated: 1977
Area: 3.75 sq. mi.
Median income: \$34,399
1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million
1996 taxable sales: \$265 million
Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom
Council: Thomas Clabby
Craig Lake
Dwight Shelley
Jill Greer

B Words

by Bob Burns

City needs an ombudsman

What with the ongoing turmoil in City Hall, the Senior Center and various departments around town, isn't it time we had an Ombudsman(person)?

I know that the position has been effectively filled and functioning in many communities, and it could here. We are a kind of family town, and it would seem to me that a mediator of some sort could head off the crises that are wont to evolve.

The unions have their negotiators and mediators that do bring opposing factions together. Families have the local minister and parish priest to turn to. Counseling of various types does a lot of fine work in bringing people together, often in amicable and mutually satisfactory solutions. (I guess I would exclude lawyers in situations like divorce, where selfish interests do come into play.)

But how about a strictly neutral party who could analyze each side of a controversy or a situation that has gone awry, without any goal but to resolve differences.

As in most all problems, there are two sides. Much yelling and screaming from both angles will create animosity and cloud the issues. If a clear statement of position and contention were to be arrived at from both directions, much could be accomplished.

First, the truth will surface and facts of a case is made clear. As in court, it becomes fairly obvious where exaggerations and outright falsehoods exist. Then, as is natural, demands will be excessive and unreasonable.

Then, there is the tradeoff of benefits to both sides, which can often be quite obvious in the light of day, so to speak.

I believe that that is the way it is done and do not see why such an arrangement could not be very beneficial to Lemon Grove. I know it has worked in other cities ... why not here?

In recent "troubles" (as they say in Ireland), our city has undergone some upheaval, to say the least. One wonders if at least some of them could not have been prevented or at least lessened by an ombudsperson.

Where small disputes evolve, can they not be nipped in the bud and diverted before major and costly actions become mandatory? It would seem to me that if Mr/Ms John/Joan Q. Ombudsman were to quietly meet with a department head, an employee or a constituent who might have a beef with the city, that reason could well prevail. Without taking sides and being purely neutral in all disputes, he/she could solve, in my opinion, probably 95 percent of the inevitable problems that arise.

I recall talking about having such a person while actively involved in our city government. However, without big problems in those days, the need was not urgent, so it never happened. It is by looking through these old eyes now that I see maybe the time has come to have such a person in our government scene.

Mount Miguel teacher, students receive certificates of merit

Mount Miguel High School teacher Larry Nordell and student Jason B. Cho were among those chosen to receive certificates of merit from the 10th year of Radio Shack/Tandy Scholars in science and mathematics.

In addition to Cho, Mount Miguel students Marie Curtin, Michael Ferguson, Carolyn Gleason, Michael R. Laraya, Dennis G. Lomibac, Kristine Pohaku, Noelita A. Robeniol and Megan Thomas received certificates for being among the top 2 percent of students from across the country whose schools entered the competition, which this year amounted to more than 36,000 students receiving certificates.

Students nominated by their school are eligible to receive one of the 100 \$1,000 scholarships awarded each year, in addition to the certificates of merit. Teachers nominated by their schools are eligible for one of the 100 \$2,500 cash awards given each year.

More than 17,000 public and private schools chose to enter this year's competition, each of which nominated one student in either science, mathematics or computer science, in addition to one teacher.

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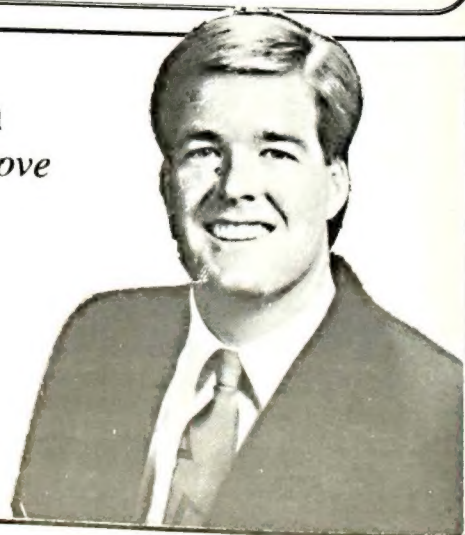
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Commentary

by Paul Treske

The issue had its usual two-day hearing before Congress. There was much clucking and head shaking, but typically, it hasn't been heard from since. It's the issue of magazine company sweepstakes and their deceptive practices and I, for one, don't want it to go away so easily.

Although over 70, I still apparently have enough of my original wit and skepticism to know a scam when it passes my way.

Unfortunately, all too many of the elderly who are infirm or desperately lonely can't often discern the small print on things so well, and as a result, are cruelly taken in by the gaudy promises of almost won't riches.

You know what I'm talking about. The bulky package arrives from Publishers Clearing House, Readers Digest or a dozen other magazine sales operations.

It loudly announces, in the most personal terms, that you, JOE SMITH, are a big winner (almost) in their million dollar sweepstakes, and all you have to do is return the enclosed form with, hopefully, an added order of a few of their publications, and millions will come your way before you know it.

Too many of the aged, informed, innocent or overly anxious read no further. They trust enough not to dig too deeply into the small print to discover that they are merely one of many millions of contenders whose odds of actually getting anything except the unwanted magazines are a zillion to one.

I mean, after all, the exceptionally trustworthy of Ed McMahon and Dick Clark are there, big as life, right next to the giant letters that say that you are

Plucking the innocent

only a step away from untold riches. Why bother with the smaller print?

The stories told to congressional committee members several weeks ago were enough to break a strong heart. Old folks, firmly believing (and with some validity) that an application without a magazine order is an automatic loser, spoke of amounts like \$15,000 or more invested in magazine purchases who terms of delivery would far outlive them. Others spoke of similar amounts of both money and faith invested in hundreds of such sweepstakes.

My wife, as executor for her brother who died in October, 1997, still regularly receives such sweepstakes material in his name promising the deceased wealth untold if he only antes up for a few more unwanted magazines. She has written to them several times, notifying them of his death, but this seems to have little effect on good old Ed or Dick.

Caveat Emptor has long been the American way of business, but the destruction of both life savings and a lifetime of faith by these wretched and unprincipled merchants goes far beyond simple warnings.

In their congressional response, company executives both defended the large print/small print deception and steadily denied, despite proof to the opposite, that responses without magazine orders end up an automatic "no chance" junk pile.

They will not change their ways unless Congress or we make them do so. Every day, I thank my stars for my wonderfully protective innate skepticism. But, if live too much longer, that may eventually desert me also. Then, who will project me?

PG Perspectives

That age-old generation gap

by Phillip Giannangeli

The battle raged, I'm sure, in prehistoric times.

"Can't you kids keep that infernal noise down? You think we live in a cave or something?"

"You never let us have fun. It's always 'gather roots and berries or go help your father clean up after the dinosaurs.' We never get to do what we want. You don't let us just kick back and enjoy those warm fires. Dad, just when we finally learned how to start, or do some art work on those groovy blank walls in our cave, or go and savor the camaraderie of those clan kids over by Pterodactyl Hills. It's just not fair!"

Update those sentiments and dialogue to our times and things probably haven't changed that much. There is still the generational dispute over things valued, pleasures sought. The balance of power, though, does seem to have shifted.

In those earlier times, a clout from dad or an ear-pulling episode with mom tilted power and obedience in their direction. Today, there's much less of that and more emphasis on the young than there has been in the past. What we seem to be experiencing is a cult of youth.

In the past, tensions and disagreements between generations existed but, in the end, the newer generation would eventually turn into the older generation and take up the very values once disputed. Those values, first newly discovered, then wholeheartedly adopted, would cycle through yet one more generation.

Today, though, generational role-swapping and values-adopting seem to be going through a complete reversal.

Look at what has happened to what once called the virtue of patience. It was a trait to be valued. Good things happened, or were supposed to happen, to those who waited.

Conversely, good things would not happen to those who rushed forward, pushed and shoved trying to lay claim to what was sought. Today however, patience, once even touted as its own reward, is seen as a liability.

As a matter of fact, if you stand back and show restraint these days, you're likely to be run over and trampled. And, not just by that newer generation coming along. Those who look and act like you seem to be taking up this new paradigm at an alarming rate, also.

Many of them (us), like the young, see little or no virtue in patience. They (we) disdain it and demand whatever it is they (we) want now. The mantra of the day is NOW!

Grace and delicacy used to matter a lot, too. The young were taught that those character traits were important and should be learned. Folks who were the heroes of the times (role models would come later) were admonished to set good examples. Today, the message is different. Grace is overshadowed by unbridled power and delicacy is put off as prissiness.

To really see the picture, all you need to do is look at what is prized as entertainment in society today. Subtlety doesn't exist much anymore; everything is out in the open. Let it all hang out is a favorite verse for many a caroler.

More than a year of turmoil and revelation in the nation's capitol attests to that. And today, efforts to overcome an obstacle are no longer accompanied by grace. That's not the road to success. Pulverize the bastard is the modern approach.

I don't mean this to be an alarmist call to arms against all that's youth-oriented. There's nothing wrong with adopting what's best in what's out there. But throwing all of our luggage overboard because it's not new is not a very good practice.

Those older suitcases some of us carry around hold prized possessions and we need to protect them, remember them, honor them and make sure that they get passed on to the new generation that's blasting its way onto today's scene.

Letters to the Editor

Finally, the whole story

I have been following the case of the five boys that got into the altercation with a number of Marines at a party in Santee some months ago. I mainly have been following the events through the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and the various television reports that have aired. I was impressed by the thoroughness of your article ["The Politics of Race," March 11 issue] and your unbiased attitude toward either side.

After reading the chronology of events, I have reinforced my opinion that this was a series of unfortunate events which led to a major injury to one of the participants. I firmly do not believe that case has any racial overtones, but truly shows the inevitable dangers that do occur when alcohol and young people are involved.

Once again, thank you for your efforts in allowing all individuals to see the truth.

DENNIS SHEPARD
Santee

You should be congratulated on the hate crime story ["The Politics of Hate," March 11 issue]. The research done in this story is obvious. It paints an entirely different picture of this incident.

Your paper should be recognized for taking the time to dig deeper, check court records, to find out the real story. I am glad I read it.

LAURA CASTANEDA
San Diego

Reel Thoughts

Bad taste sours 'Ravenous,' 'EdTV'

by Betty Jo Tucker

Two types of cannibalism make moviegoers a bit queasy this week. "Ravenous" depicts the human flesh-eating variety while "EdTV" shows how the mass media devours celebrities. In dealing with such unpleasant business, both films reach for laughs without much success. They are about as humorous as open heart surgery. What were filmmakers thinking?

In the case of "Ravenous," screenwriter Ted Griffin, intrigued by the Donner Party incident, wanted to explore an old Indian myth which claims that a person who eats the flesh of another steals that individual's strength and spirit. (You are who you eat?)

Griffin's first produced screenplay attempts to merge dark humor with the gruesome subject of cannibalism, an almost impossible task.

The story takes place in a snowbound fort in the Sierra Nevada during the 1850s, where an army captain (Guy Pearce, so brilliant in "L.A. Confidential") fights his own hunger as well as a cannibalistic killer played by Robert Carlyle ("The Full Monty").

Director Antonia Bird ("Priest") calls her latest film "a mix of many things: an adventure story, a whodunit, and a satire." Unfortunately, she has stirred up an extremely unsavory concoction.



Robert Carlyle (as Calhoun) explains the joys of cannibalism to a reluctant Guy Pearce in a scene from 20th Century Fox's "Ravenous."

This pretty much sums up "EdTV," also. This too-soon imitation of "The Truman Show" is director Ron Howard's ("Apollo 13") effort to dramatize the way celebrities are served up for mass consumption by television.

Ed (Matthew McConaughey from "Contact" and "A Time to Kill"), a nondescript video store clerk, allows cameras to follow him 24 hours a day, every day.

Even his most gross-out behavior seems to captivate the public. He becomes famous just for being famous. In the process, Ed almost loses his soul to the ratings devil.

Besides being a comedy that's not very funny, "EdTV" suffers from its own celebrity overdose. Unknown actors should have been cast in the lead roles. McConaughey carries too much "star baggage" for believability here, as does Woody Harrelson ("The People vs. Larry Flynt") who plays Ed's older brother. Ditto Jenna Elfman ("Dharma and Greg") as his camera-shy girlfriend.

Regrettably, after viewing "EdTV" or "Ravenous," more than a few moviegoers will leave the theater with a very bad taste in their mouths.

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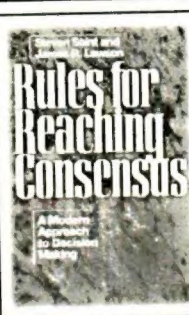
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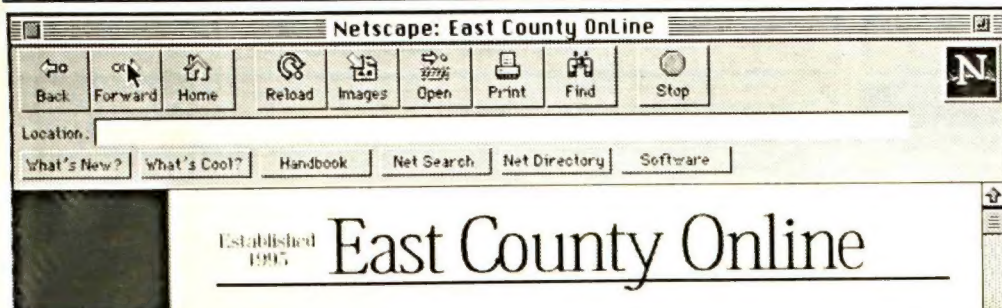
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SanDiegoGrocer.com

by Cheryl Cohen

This extraordinary-looking Web site first caught my attention on television, when they flashed a very brief commercial about grocery shopping online.

The ad said that only the first 5,000 respondents were to be accepted for their "initial launch," so I hopped onto the Internet right away and registered.

Although far from being the only site offering an Internet grocery service, this one has a local focus.

The parent company, American Grocer, LLC, consists right now of a group of six people, headed up by Spring Valley resident and majority owner, Chuck Jones.

SanDiegoGrocer.com is his brainchild and is still in development. However, the amount of work already completed is evi-

dence that they're serious; this is no vapor site.

Jones is committed to delaying the start of the actual service until they're sure they've "gotten all the bugs out," and said his best guess is approximately 60 days before they will be fully functional.

He added they will not add any new members until they're comfortable that they can maintain service levels for the existing (pre-registered) customers.

The premise is simple: enough order what you need and it will be delivered by refrigerated van to your door, and even into the kitchen if desired. The site offers three ways to order: Internet, telephone and fax.

The Web site has several sections: "Shop Aisles" where you can browse the rows of the virtual grocery store (or use their Item Locator for a quick search of the

entire inventory).

Here, you can also set up multiple grocery lists, access prior ones you've placed or even arrange to have certain items regularly delivered automatically.

"Create-a-Meal" is the place where you can choose from a vast recipe database, click a button and the ingredients needed for the dish will be delivered right to your door.

"Instant Coupons" works with ClipOnline, a promotional marketing site where consumers have secure access to money-saving coupons, rebates, free samples and other goodies, all without charge. A cutesy animated penguin serves as a guide for the section.

Customers are asked for certain personal information upon registration which they say is used solely to customize the shopping experience.

For example, if you want free samples, you'll have to give a mailing address in order to

receive them. Also, if you have a dog, they won't waste your time by offering you specials on cat food.

The amount of information provided in your profile is entirely up to you, and they say they won't share your information with anyone unless you direct them to do so.

Shopping and delivery will be available 24 hours a day via all three methods, and the time of delivery (also available 24 hours) can be specified.

Next-day free delivery orders must be placed by midnight. A \$5 order-processing fee will be added to phone and fax orders to cover the higher cost of involving humans in those services. Web site orders over \$60 will have no delivery or processing fees.

They won't take cash, citing the safety of their delivery personnel. However, SanDiegoGrocer.com will accept MasterCard, Visa, debit cards, personal checks and direct checking account withdrawal (electronic checks).

Tipping will not be allowed, in order to keep the groceries truly discounted.

You can even arrange to have a neighbor receive them. Jones said they're toying with the idea of warehouse pickup, but have not come to a decision, yet.

So, how do they do it? There are obvious savings in not having

to lease and maintain stores. Also, by asking what the customers desire now, they can buy less unwanted/wasted items, no costly displays, and can access cheap advertising on the Internet and cable television.

SanDiegoGrocer.com says they won't carry off-beat, unknown brands or other grocers' overstocks. They plan only to deal in quality brand-name and organic groceries.

Jones dropped out as the former president and CEO of New World Marketing, the largest coupon processor in the world. After his tenure there, he decided he wanted to get back to "applied technology."

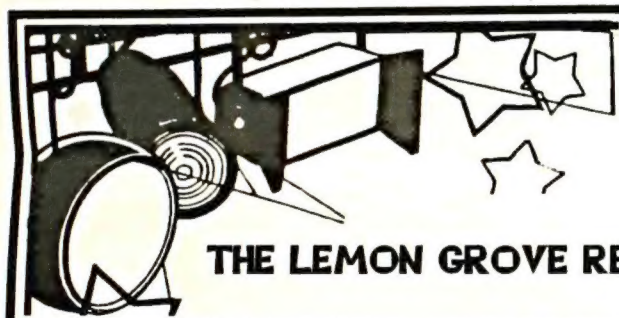
Paul Burgess is responsible for the look and functionality of the site, which is uncluttered and beautifully-designed.

Visitors will be able to look around the different areas and see exactly what to expect when it's ready to take off for real.

Shockwave Flash 3 (a regular Netscape plug-in) is necessary to use the site, and is available on the front end for download.

Other requirements are Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later, 68 Macintosh (Power PC Recommended) with system 7.1 or later.

SanDiegoGrocer.com just might rid me of some aggravation and fulfill some of my laziest dreams, as well as my cupboards.



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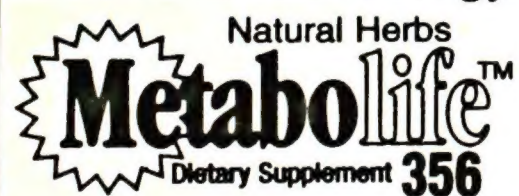
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